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HOW TO OBTAIN FREE CREDIT REPORTS

We have all been bombarded with e-mails advertising free credit reports and free credit services only to find that we have been lured to a website that will only provide you with the so-called "free" report so long as you purchase a corresponding service. For New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware residents, relief from this annoyance is on the way. Beginning September 1, 2005, consumers in those states can begin ordering truly free annual credit reports thanks to Congress' recent amendment of the Fair Credit Reporting Act ("FCRA") by way of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction Acts of 2003 ("FACTA")

FACTA requires the three nationwide credit bureaus to provide consumers with a free copy of their credit report once every twelve months, upon request. On March 1, 2005, Equifax, Experian and Trans Union,

the three nationwide consumer reporting companies, began processing consumers' requests for free annual credit reports at www.annualcreditreport.com, for twelve mid-western states. Beginning June 1, 2005, consumers in the southern states will become eligible for the free reports.

Last but certainly not least, consumers in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York, Maryland and the other eastern states, Puerto Rico and all U.S. Territories will become eligible for free annual credit reports at www.annualcreditreport.com. While there are a number of internet sites and addresses offering free credit reports along with other services, only the above listed three national credit reporting agencies are part of the official program, accessible only through the official site.

For more information, please call Thomas A. Muccifori, Esquire, founder and chair of the Commercial Collections and Consumer Litigation Practice Group at 856-354-3056 or email him at tmuccifori@archerlaw.com.